

Message Text

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15
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01

PRS-01 SP-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 EA-06 /046 W
----- 119905

R 082321Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1202
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
CINCPAC
CNO WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 WELLINGTON 1348

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, NZ, MNUC
SUBJECT: GNZ POSES MORE QUESTIONS ON OPERATION OF NPW

REF: (A) WELLINGTON 1175 (DTG 260508Z MAR 76), (B) STATE 066561
(DTG 190146Z MAR 76)

1. ON APRIL 8 MFA DEFENSE DIVISION HEAD DAVID ATKINS
DELIVERED TO EMBASSY FOLLOWING LETTER FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY
MERWYN NORRISH TO AMBASSADOR SELDEN:

2. "MY DEAR AMBASSADOR,

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES
LAST MONTH SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF
REACTOR PROCEDURES ON UNITED STATES NUCLEAR-POWERED
WARSHIPS. I UNDERSTAND THAT ANSWERS TO THESE INQUIRIES
ARE TO BE FURNISHED THROUGH YOUR EMBASSY.

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YOU WILL RECALL THAT IN YOUR EMBASSY'S
AIDE MEMOIRE OF 11 MARCH 1975 IT WAS STATED THAT
'WHEN RESUMED, VISITS BY UNITED STATES NUCLEAR-
POWERED WARSHIPS TO NEW ZEALAND WOULD CONTINUE TO

BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ASSURANCES
CONTAINED IN THE 'STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT ON THE OPERATION OF U.S. NUCLEAR-POWERED
WARSHIPS IN FOREIGN PORTS'. I HAVE NOW BEEN ASKED
TO SUBMIT, THROUGH YOU, THE ATTACHED QUESTIONS IN
RELATION TO THIS 'STANDARD STATEMENT'.

I SHOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT IN SEEKING
ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS THE NEW ZEALAND AUTHORITIES
ARE NOT SEEKIN ACCESS TO THE NUCLEAR PROPULSION SYSTEM
ITSELF, OR TO TECHNICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE
NUCLEAR PROPULSON SYSTEM EXCEPT IN GENERAL TERMS."

3. ENCLOSURE TO NORRISH LETTER CONTAINS FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

"(A) DOES THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE
STATEMENT MEAN THAT:

(1) THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTWILL CERTIFY
THAT THE VESSEL'S NUCLEAR PLANT, ITS ASSOCIATED
EQUIPMENT AND ALL SAFETY AND PROTECTIVE DEVICES WERE
IN FULL WORKING ORDER AND OPERATING WITHOUT ABNORMALITY?

(2) THE COMMANDING OFFICER WILL BE AUTHORIZED
TO SIGNAL THE APPROPRIATE NAVAL AUTHORITY TO THIS
EFFECT, WITHIN TWELVE HOURS OF THE VESSEL'S
PROPOSED ENTRY INTO A NEW ZEALAND PORT?

(B) DO PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2D MEAN THAT THE
COMMANDING OFFICER WILL COMPLY WITH ALL DIRECTIONS
OF THE PORT NAVAL AUTHORITIES REGARDING THE MOVEMENTS
OF THE VESSEL WITHIN THE HARBOUR? (THE COMMANDING
OFFICER WOULD, OF COURSE, BE CONSULTED PREVIOUSLY,
PARTICULARLY IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT/INCIDENT.)

(C) DOES THE TERM 'ACCIDENT' IN PARAGRAPH 2CC.
INCLUDE:

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(1) 'ACCIDENT' DEFINED AS:
'AN UNEXPECTED EVENT INVOLVING A NUCLEAR
REACTOR PLANT, WHICH RESULTS IN A RADIOLOGICAL HAZARD
EXTERNAL TO THE REACTOR PLANT.'?

(2) 'INCIDENT' DEFINED AS:
'AN UNEXPECTED EVENT INVOLVING A NUCLEAR
REACTOR PLANT, WHICH COULD LEAD TO A REACTOR ACCIDENT
UNCLESS CONTROLLED.'?

(3) ANY UNEXPECTED EVENT INVOLVING A NUCLEAR
REACTOR RESULTING IN A POSSIBLE PUBLIC HAZARD, OR ANY
CIRCUMSTANCES KNOWN WHICH INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF

SUCH AN EVENT?

(C) IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE THREE QUESTIONS
ABOVE IS IN THE NEGATIVE:

(1) HOW IS 'ACCIDENT' DEFINED?

(2) WHICH OF (C) (1) - (3) ABOVE WOULD THE
UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES ACCEPT AS A DEFINITION OF
'ACCIDENT'?

(E) WOULD THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES AGREE TO
THE FOLLOWING CONDITION:

'OPENING THE NUCLEAR REACTOR CONTAINMENT
STRUCTURE, DEFUELLING, THE RELEASE OF ANY AIRBORNE OR
SOLID OR LIQUID RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, REFUELLING,
REPAIRS OR MAINTENANCE ON THE VESSEL'S REACTOR AND
PRIMARY NUCLEAR SYSTEM OR EQUIPMENT SHALL NOT BE
CARRIED OUT IN A NEW ZEALAND PORT OR WITHIN TNEW ZEALAND
TERRITORIAL WATERS, EXCEPT WITH THE EXPRESS PERMISSION
OF A PERSON AUTHORIZED BY THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT.'

(F) CONFIRMATION THAT PARAGRAPHS 1, 2B AND 2D MEAN
THAT:

(1) THE VESSEL WILL CARRY SUFFICIENT MONITORING
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AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR USE (IN EMERGENCY SITUATION)
ON THE VELLES AND ON SHORE IN THE VICINITY OF THE
VESSEL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 30 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976WELLIN01348
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604113/baaabawg.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: BO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: MARR, NZ, MNUC
To: STATE INFO CANBERRA
CINCPAC
CNO
SECDEF
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

